



The TALON MRC

Region VI Medical Reserve Corps Newsletter

TX, AR, LA, OK, NM

Summer 2006

September is National Preparedness Month—What can you do for your country?
Visit READY.GOV and get involved!

2006 National Leadership Conference



April in Dallas was a little hotter than usual, but that did not stop MRC leaders and volunteers from across the United States in their travels to the state of Texas. The conference began with valuable volunteer management training provided by the Points of Light Foundation.* This was followed by our beloved Region VI Breakout which was attended by the Region VI Department of Health And Human Services administration and program offices including the Office of Women's Health, Minority Health, Family Planning and the HIV/AIDS Regional Resource Network. MRCs within our region also shared some of their practices, organization, and successes with the group by giving short presentations during the breakout. That evening Director Captain Rob Tosatto welcomed the crowd in the display hall and units were given the opportunity to take a picture with their respective states and with Surgeon General Carmona.*

Day two began with a welcome from the Region VI and IX Regional Health Administrator, Dr. Ronald Banks, whose inspiring words included, "Vision without action is but a dream. Action without vision is a nightmare." He introduced Surgeon General Carmona who thanked the MRC units and members that were involved in the sheltering and evacuation of victims of MRC had proven

"lives were saved" thanks to the tireless efforts of our MRC leaders and volunteers. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He stated that the following was a discussion by the National Association of City and County Health officials on the recently released *MRC Core Competencies*. The Public Health Foundation then unveiled a new resource for MRC unit leaders which allows the management and recording of their volunteers' training called MRC TRAIN. Leaders should have received a login from the Public Health Foundation and the National Office has agreed to provide training and will contact you when training is scheduled. The lunch keynote was a presentation on Pandemic Flu and strategies to reduce it's spread from the National Institute of Health.

MRC units from around the nation brought with them their experience and expertise, providing many sessions with topics related to sustainability, volunteer management and engagement, technologies that can be applied to MRCs including communications and the effective use of teams in disaster response and public health improvement activities. Region VI MRCs gave presentations including members of the Texas Medical Rangers, the Dallas County MRC, and the Harris County Hospital District MRC.

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(Continued from Page 1) Day three began with breakout sessions tailored to housing agency allowing public health department units, hospitals, emergency management offices and others to have open discussion regarding their teams. Afterwards were a discussion of Mass Catastrophic Event Planning and a lunch plenary discussing the response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. More peer sessions followed. The last day of the conference ended with a bang with fantastic presentations on Risk Communications and Special Needs.

Overall, the conference was a huge success. I believe that each one of us left better informed, better prepared, and greatly inspired. Thank you to those units in Region VI that gave presentations both in our regional breakout and as part of the conference agenda. This directly contributed to the success of this conference. Next years conference will be April 17-20 in Providence, Rhode Island.

*Presentations are available on the [Medical Reserve Corps Website](#), a link is currently on the left menu bar. Core Competency and MRC TRAIN information is also available on the website.

*If you did not receive a picture that you were photographed in, please contact the Region VI Coordinator. Pictures can also be ordered at <http://www.jbeck.storefrontphotos.com> Password 'mygroupphotos'.



Funding Opportunities

The Homeland Security Grant Program 2006 Guidance has included verbiage in the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) guidance that money CAN be allotted to an MRC in the jurisdiction. This money does not have to spent in this manner, it is up to the jurisdiction to provide money. The Texas Grant Coordinator mentioned at the National Conference that it is not wise to ask for money if your team has not been involved up to this point and advised participation in the MMRS committee, developing relationships and demonstrating the need for the Medical Reserve Corps. Urban Area Securities Initiative (UASI) and City Readiness Initiative (CRI) grants also include money for citizen involvement though it does not directly say that money is for the MRC. The Federal Government is also providing money to states which are in turn distributing money to county health departments for Pandemic Flu planning and education. The Medical Reserve Corps can play a great role in this initiative so make sure those relationships exist and that the public health department knows who you are and how you plan to assist.

More federal funding opportunities exist in grants, visit <http://www.grants.gov> for more.

Private sponsorship is also an option. Working with your Chambers of Commerce and partnering with or being sponsored by local businesses to provide resources other than dollars can work in everyone's favor. Private grants are also available, for more information visit

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/resources.asp?mode=BrowseSubcategory&category=P>



Articles & Resources

The American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS) announces the American Board of Disaster Medicine.

http://www.aapsga.org/downloads/News_Release_Disaster_Medicine_02_06.pdf

(Thanks to Marti Cascio, CAMREC for this)

Providing Charity Care:
A Primer on Liability Risk

<http://www.aafp.org/fpm/20030100/52prov.html>

A clickable map of state Pandemic plans:

<http://www.cste.org/specialprojects/Influenzaplans/StateMap.asp>

Recent Virtual Forum, Topic MRC:

<http://www.emforum.org/vforum/lc060426.htm>

Joint Commission Study on Emergency Preparedness Published

<http://www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/144/11/799>

Federal Tort Claims Act Coverage of Free Clinic Volunteer Health Care Professionals

<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/freeclinicsftca/application.htm#3>

Health and Human Services Information for Rural America

<http://www.raonline.org/>

Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Jurisdictions

<https://www.mmrs.fema.gov/Main/jurisdictions.aspx>



Region VI Peer Recommended Training



Following is a list of courses that Region VI leaders came up with at the last regional meeting. This is not all inclusive nor is anything required. This is just a laundry list of ideas.

Where there are official courses, links are included. Otherwise, try an internet search engine or contact local government and health entities.

*ICS - IS100, IS 200

*NIMS – IS700, IS800

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>

*Community Emergency Response Team Training
<https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>

www.citizencorps.gov/cert/

*Core Disaster Life Support

*Basic Disaster Life Support

*Advance Disaster Life Support

<http://www.bdlis.com/index.asp>

*Field Hygiene

*Deployment Orientation (disaster scenario, military time, etc)

*Personal Preparedness

*Scene Safety

*Red Cross training

*HAZMAT Awareness

*HAM Radio Operation

*Local Disaster Operations (How it all works, command structure, etc)

*Disaster Psychology

*Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)

*Diversity in the Workplace (applies to dealing with unfamiliar populations)

*Universal Precaution Training

*Special Needs Awareness and Sensitivity

*Self Defense (possibly RAD training) <http://www.rad-systems.com/>

www.rad-systems.com/

*Tactical Medicine

*Patient Restraint

*First Aid/CPR

*Basic Life Support

*Shelter Management/Operations

*Triage

*Mortuary

*Language identification/interpretation

(including sign language – <http://www.deaflink.com>)